

***"We do not educate the child for the age of childhood, we educate him for his whole earthly experience"***

Rudolf Steiner, The Roots of Education 1924

The Irish Steiner Kindergarten Association, ISKA, was formed in 1992 as a forum for the professional development of their members, those parents, teachers & friend's dedicated to developing Steiner- Waldorf childcare in Ireland. While Steiner education was widely recognised internationally, at that time outside of the work of the association, Steiner education was little known of in Ireland. In recent years the interest in Steiner Early Childhood Education has increased greatly. Presently there are 17 Kindergartens, and 7 Parent & Child groups nationwide. Within the Steiner community, preschool settings are referred to as 'Kindergarten's, meaning *children's garden*, ISKA now has two part-time officers funded through the NCIP, networking with the members, and advising providers.

ISKA recognises that the Síolta framework, in its quest for the 'provision of quality early childhood education', is compatible with the Steiner ethos of care and education for the 0-6 yr old.

ISKA is happy to promote the development of this framework within its childcare settings. Advising teachers & committees through our document "Sensing Quality; provision of the framework for quality in Steiner Waldorf settings".

As an association ISKA aims to support members while equally supporting others who wish to adopt aspects of our holistic approach.

The aims of the Irish Steiner Kindergarten Association are:

- to promote and support the development of Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education in Ireland.
- to act as an effective representative body for professionals working in Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education.
- to support and promote the provision of sessional, full daycare and other childcare and family support services of the highest quality as an integral part of a continuum of community care for children.
- to establish and develop a range of training programmes for professional childcare practitioners
- to provide professional in-service training programmes for members
- to work in collaboration with other organizations and agencies to promote high quality, affordable childcare services in the community

For further information; <http://www.iskaireland.org>